

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK, CONNECTICUT (PHASE I)

Project Historians

Sarah Bean Apmann and Karen A. Kennedy
TKS Historic Resources, Inc.

Project Director

Mary M. Donohue

Sponsors

State of Connecticut
Governor Dannel P. Malloy

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism
Historic Preservation and Museum Division

David Bahlman, Division Director

City of Norwalk
Norwalk Preservation Trust

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Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

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The researchers have endeavored to generate an overview document and forms that are as up-to-date and accurate as possible. This does not, however, preclude that value or need for additional data or corrections. Anyone with further information or insight is encouraged to contact Tod Bryant, President of The Norwalk Preservation Trust, Inc.

Resource inventories similar to this report are based primarily on the format applied in the *Historic Preservation in Connecticut* series, compiled by the Connecticut Historical Commission (since replaced by the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism). The template for this study was provided by the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism and drawn from the *Historical and Architectural Resource Survey for the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut*, prepared in 2010 by Lucas Karmazinas of *FuturePast Preservation*.

Sarah Bean Apmann
Karen A. Kennedy
TKS Historic Resources, Inc.
Babylon, NY
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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	3
I. Introduction	5-6
II. Map	7
III. Methodology	8-10
IV. The Historic Resources Inventory Form	11-15
V. History of the City of Norwalk	16-30
VI. Architectural Overview of the Survey Area	31-35
VII. Bibliography	36-38
VIII. Resources Related to Minorities and Women	39-40
IX. Recommendations	41-43
X. Index to Inventoried Resources	44-52

I. Introduction

The Norwalk Preservation Trust applied for and on November 30, 2009 received a grant from the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism for the preparation of an Historic Resource Inventory. This report contains the results of the study, prepared between October, 2010 and March, 2011. The expectation of this survey was that it would enrich the town's historical record as well as update and supplement the City of Norwalk's Historic Resources Inventory List which was compiled in the late 1970's. A copy of this original inventory as well as its research notes and files are kept with the Norwalk Museum.

The ultimate goal of the City of Norwalk is to identify and survey all pre-1960 properties within the geographic boundaries of the City of Norwalk in order to categorize, safeguard and protect the City's historic properties for the future. This survey is considered the first phase to meet that goal and focuses on the downtown core areas of Norwalk which are planned for large-scale redevelopment, the boundaries of which are illustrated on page seven of this report. It is planned that other areas of Norwalk will be surveyed as funding becomes available.

As part of the RFP issued by the City of Norwalk for this Project, TKS Historic Resources created a custom database of the survey information which is linked to the Connecticut Historic Resource Inventory Form. This database has a GIS overlay and has been incorporated into the City's ESRI Geodatabase.

The following report follows the format in the National Park Service publication, *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning: National Register Bulletin #24*, and as identified by Connecticut's Statewide Historic Resources Inventory Update. It includes an historic and architectural overview illustrating the development of the survey area and commenting on its importance relative to the larger narrative of the town's history. It includes an individual inventory form for each resource surveyed identifying its historical and architectural significance. Additional sections highlight those resources potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as those noteworthy for their connection to the history of women and minorities.

A primary objective of this survey was to identify and document the historic significance and integrity of the included structures. This was done in an effort to acknowledge the historic value of the resources in the survey area as well as to supplement the town's historic record. Extensively documented and adequately preserved historic resources are often limited to those related to notable figures, or are those that are the oldest or most architecturally detailed. Historic Resource Inventory studies, however, allow for a broad analysis of the resources in a survey area and help to draw out those that may have been overlooked or undervalued. In the simplest of terms, the Historic Resource

Inventory serves as an “honor roll” of a town’s historic buildings, structures, and sites, thus allowing for the recognition of a diverse body of resources.

Historic Resource Inventories play an important role in various governmental planning processes and allow both the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism and town planning departments to identify state and federal projects that might impact historic resources. Well-preserved built environments contribute to an area’s quality of life and municipalities benefit directly from efforts to maintain the unique makeup and aesthetic diversity of their historic neighborhoods. Historic Resource Inventories help to reduce tear-downs, increase local infrastructure investment, and facilitate economic development by informing local governments and populations of the quality and character of their significance from the role they have played in the community and from the value the community places on them as a result. It is hoped that this Historic Resource Inventory will serve to increase appreciation of Norwalk’s historic resources and in turn encourage their preservation.

Historic Resource Inventory, Phase I, City of Norwalk



III. Methodology

The Survey

This survey of historic and architectural resources in the City of Norwalk, Connecticut was conducted by Karen A. Kennedy and Sarah Bean Apmann of TKS Historic Resources, Inc., a New York firm specializing in research on historic resources. Fieldwork, photo documentation, research, interviews and writing were carried out between October 2010 and March 2011. Copies of the final report and survey forms are deposited at the Norwalk Historical Society, the Norwalk Museum and the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, One Constitution Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut, 06103. Copies of the report and survey will also be deposited by the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism at the Connecticut State Library in Hartford, and the Special Collections Department of the Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

The information needed to complete this Historic Resources Inventory was done initially by a windshield survey and later by a ground survey. The ground survey involved walking each street of the survey area and documenting each historic resource from the exterior. This documentation was supplemented with other public data from sources such as the town tax assessor's records, historic and present day maps, interviews with local authorities and historians, current State and National Register listings in the survey area and a Historic Resources Survey conducted in Norwalk in 1976.

Neither the form, nor the survey in general dictates what homeowners can do with their property nor does the included information violate the privacy of those whose property is included. For those homeowners who might be concerned about the implications of the survey, a review of the Historic Resource Inventory form demonstrates the public nature of the information included. Data collected includes: verification of street number and name; use; accessibility (public vs. private); architectural style; approximate date of construction; construction materials and details; condition of the resource; character of the surrounding environment; description of the resource; and exterior photographs. This survey represents an inventory of historical and architectural resources and no attempt was made to identify archaeological sites. Such an endeavor would have been beyond the scope of this study and would have necessitated specialized procedures, extensive fieldwork, and a greater allocation of resources.

The Survey Area

The survey area selected for this study is approximately 325 acres and is located in north-central Norwalk bounded by Cross and North Streets to the north, East Avenue to the East, Interstate 95 to the south and United States Highway 7 to the west. The neighborhoods within the study area represent a substantially intact collection of residential structures as well as a mix of commercial, institutional and industrial structures. The residential fabric dates predominantly between 1820 to 1950. Commercial, institutional and industrial structures date between mid-nineteenth century to mid-twentieth.

The North-Central Norwalk Historic Resources survey is a collection of extant period architecture set in a suburban, industrial and commercial environment. In terms of residential fabric, the identified resources demonstrate characteristics emphasizing developmental construction of upper, middle and lower-class housing. In this case, upper-class housing was found predominantly along Park and East Avenues, middle-class housing was found west of West Avenue and middle to lower-class housing was found east of West Avenue down to the Norwalk River. Industrial sites were found predominantly north and south of Wall Street near the Norwalk River intersection. Commercial structures line the main arteries such as East and West Avenues and Main and Wall Streets. The resources chosen for this survey represent well-preserved examples directly reflecting these developmental patterns, as well as emphasizing the growth of the industrial and commercial zones cited above.

Criteria for Selection

The Historic and Architectural Resources Inventory for the City of Norwalk (Phase I), Connecticut was conducted in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation* (National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1983).

The criteria employed for the evaluation of properties were based on those of the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior. Properties recognized by the National Register include districts, structures, buildings, objects, and sites that are significant in American history, architecture, engineering, archaeology, and culture, and which contribute to the understanding of the states and the nation as a whole. The National Register's criteria for evaluating the significance of resources and/or their eligibility for nomination are determined by the following:

The quality of significance in American History, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess the integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history, or;
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, or;
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a distinctive and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction, or;
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.¹

The above criteria formed the basis for evaluating the buildings in this survey; however, these parameters were also broadened to identify resources associated with individuals or events significant to Norwalk's history, or those structures that displayed vernacular styles or methods of construction typical of the period in which they were built. Although some structures possess alterations ranging from the application of synthetic siding, modern windows and doors, to the addition, or removal of porches, all of these retained most of their historic character, features, and form. Therefore, not all of the resources identified by this inventory have been judged to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Those resources determined to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as part of a district, will be discussed later in the *Recommendations* section.

Historic Resource Inventories are often prepared focusing on the oldest resources in a survey area. These are evaluated relative to the period in which they originated, and unified within the requisite overview study according to the chronology of the area's development. For the purposes of the survey, historic resources dated up to and including 1965 were included.

¹ *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation: National Register Bulletin #15. By the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, finalized by Patrick W. Andrus, edited by Rebecca H. Shrimpton, (National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1990; revised 1991, 1995, 1997).*

IV. The Historic Resource Inventory Form

An Historic Resource Inventory form was prepared for each historic resource surveyed. These were completed following a standard electronic format (.pdf format) created by the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, the state agency responsible for historic preservation. Each form is divided into three main sections. These provide background, architectural, and historical information on the resource, and include; their street number and name, owner(s), type of use, architectural style, approximate date of construction, construction materials and details, physical condition of the resource, character of the surrounding environment, description of the resource, architect/builder (if known), exterior photographs, and historical narrative.

Much of the information was gathered from historic maps as well as the City Assessor's records between October 2010 and March 2011. Architectural descriptions were drafted from exterior photographs taken during this same time period and the historical narratives were based on archival research. The majority of fields on the Historic Resources Inventory form should be self-explanatory; however the following provides clarification of several of the more nebulous categories.

Historic Name

In many cases, the historic name of a resource serves as an indicator of its historical significance. When referring to public or commercial buildings, churches, community centers, etc., a historic name is based upon a structure's earliest known use and is typically straightforward. In the case of residential buildings, things become a bit more complicated. Homes that typically housed the same family for a number of generations typically carry the surname of this family as their historic name. However, those homes that frequently changed hands or were rental properties are difficult to classify in this manner and generally don't have a historic name.

Interior Accessibility

This was a survey of exterior features only. Interiors were not surveyed or documented.

Style

A building's style was characterized according to its earliest stylistic influences and regardless of later alterations or additions. Descriptions were based upon accepted terminology laid out in *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia and Lee McAlester (Alfred A. Knopf: New York, 1984). The most commonly applied architectural styles are described below. Many of the resources did not fall into a specific category as they lack the necessary attributes. These were simply classified as "vernacular." Such a term

indicates construction typical of a period, yet lacking in many of the details and flourishes that would link it to a particular architectural style.

Greek Revival (1825-1860) – Homes patterned in the Greek Revival style were pervasive between 1825 and 1860, and as the name suggests, drew from the architecture of ancient Greece. Houses of this style have shallow pitched or hipped roofs, often with detailed cornices and wide trim bands. Fenestration consists of double-hung sash, tripartite, and at times, frieze band windows. Entry or full-width porches are common, typically supported by classical columns. Sidelights, transoms, pilasters, and heavy lintels often decorate doorways. Not limited to domestic applications, examples of Greek Revival can be found in religious, commercial, and public buildings.

Gothic Revival (1840-1880) – The Gothic Revival style is based on the architecture of medieval England. Resurgent forms gained popularity in that country during the 18th century before appearing in the United States in the 1830s. The style's definitive characteristics include steeply-pitched roofs with steep cross gables, wall surfaces and windows extending into the gables, Gothic-inspired (typically arched) windows, and one-story porches. Decorative elements include intricate verge boards in the gables, and detailed hoods over the windows and doors.

Italianate (1840-1885) – The Italianate, like the Gothic Revival, began in England before making its way into American architecture in the first half of the 19th century. The style was influenced by Italian country homes and Renaissance-era villas, yet developed into an entirely indigenous form once established in the United States. Italianate homes are typically two or three stories in height and have low-pitches (usually hipped or gable) roofs with widely overhanging eaves and detailed brackets. Tall and narrow windows are common and often have arched or curved window tops. Windows and doors are frequently crowned with decorative hoods.

French Second Empire (1855-1885) - This style was considered very modern as it imitated the latest French building fashions. The distinctive roof was named for 17th century French architect Francois Mansart. Characteristics of the style are a mansard roof with dormer windows on a steep lower slope; molded cornices normally bound the lower roof slope both above and below; and decorative brackets are usually present beneath eaves.

Vernacular/Eclectic (1860-1950) – The buildings classified as Vernacular or Eclectic are those which demonstrate an amalgam of the architectural styles popular throughout the late 19th to mid 20th century. While vernacular and eclectic manifestations lack the intricate detail of the high-style buildings they reference, shared features include

rectangular plans, and front-facing pitched roofs, and one-story porches. Windows are typically double-hung sash and doors are wood paneled.

Folk Victorian (1870-1910) – Like that of the National Folk forms on which they are based, the spread of Folk Victorian houses was made possible by the railroads. As a result, inexpensive pre-cut Victorian detailing became widely available. Characteristics of this style are porches with spindle work detailing or flat, jigsaw cut trim appended to house forms; symmetrical façade (except gable-front-and-wing subtype); and cornice-line brackets.

Eastlake/Stick (1860-1890) - The Stick style is a transitional style which links the preceding Gothic Revival with the subsequent Queen Anne; all three styles are adaptations of Medieval English building traditions. Identifying features are a gabled roof, usually steeply pitched with cross gables; gable commonly show decorative trusses at apex; overhanging eaves, usually with exposed rafter ends; wooden wall cladding interrupted by patterns of horizontal, vertical, or diagonal boards (stick work) raised from the wall surface for emphasis; and porches commonly showing diagonal or curved braces.

Queen Anne (1880-1910) – The Queen Anne style was the dominant residential form during the closing decades of the 19th century. The Queen Anne was popularized by a school of English architects, led by Richard Norman Shaw, and drew from English medieval models. Identifying features include steeply-pitched roofs of irregular shape and gable height, often with dominant, front-facing gables. Details include elaborate shingle or masonry patterns, cutaway bay windows, multi-story towers, and single-or multi-story porches. Other decorative elements include porch and gable ornamentation.

Romanesque Revival (1880-1900) – In the middle of the 19th century, this style was sometimes used for American public and commercial buildings. Identifying features of this style are round-topped arches occurring over windows, porch supports, or entrance; and masonry walls, usually with rough faced, squared stonework. Most have towers which are not normally round with conical roofs and the façade is usually asymmetrical.

Colonial Revival (1880-1955) – This style gained popularity towards the end of the 19th century before becoming the most ubiquitous architectural form of the first half of the 20th century. Many manifestations of this style emerged, most sharing influences derived from early American, or Colonial architecture, such as Georgian, Federal, and Dutch Colonial buildings. Houses of this type commonly have rectangular plans, and hipped, pitched, or gambrel roofs. Decorative features mimic classical models and include elaborate porticos or porches. Double-hung sash and multipane, symmetrically-placed windows are common, as are sidelight flanked entries.

Tudor Revival (1890-1940) – The Tudor label describes a style loosely based on Medieval English prototypes from the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras (1558-1625) and popular in the United States between 1890 and 1940. These homes are typically characterized by steeply pitched, side-gabled roofs with prominent, pitched cross gables and varied eave-line heights. Half timbered gables; tall, multipane, oriel and bay windows; dominant chimneys; and elaborate wall cladding are common decorative features.

Classical Revival (1895-1950) – This was a dominant style for domestic buildings throughout the country during the first half of the 20th century. Houses of this type are typically characterized by a façade dominated with a full-height porch with roof supported by classical columns; columns typically have Ionic or Corinthian capitals, façade shows symmetrically balanced windows and center doors.

Bungalow/Craftsman (1905-1930) - This style originated in southern California and most landmark examples are concentrated there. Like vernacular examples of the contemporaneous Prairie style, it was quickly spread throughout the United States by pattern books and popular magazines. Houses of this type typically have low-pitched gabled roofs (occasionally hipped) with wide, unenclosed eave overhangs; roof rafters usually exposed; decorative (false) beams or braces commonly added under gables; porches, either full-or partial-width, with the roof supported by tapered square columns; and columns or pedestals that frequently extend to ground level.

Art Deco (1920-1940) – This style was popular in public and commercial buildings in the 1920s and 1930s. Characteristics of the style are a smooth wall surface, usually stucco; zigzags, chevrons, and other stylized and geometric motifs occur as decorative elements on the façade; and, towers and other vertical projections above the roof line give a vertical emphasis.

Date of Construction/Dimensions

Dates of original construction are based on the Norwalk Property Records, architectural and historical evidence, and archival research. In the cases where the date listed by the Assessor's office seemed questionable, and a specific date could not be found through historical research, a circa was assigned next to the year. This evaluation is an educated guess based upon the structure's architectural detail, construction methods, and information gleaned from archival sources, including maps and atlases.

Dimensions given in square feet were based on the information in the Norwalk Property Records.

Condition

Condition assessments were based on a visual investigation of the exterior inventoried structures. It was not possible to give detailed assessment of the structural condition on the resources, as extensive and interior assessments could not be conducted.

Buildings listed as “excellent” retained most of their historic fabric in addition to being in very good condition. Buildings listed as being in “good” condition lack any glaring structural problems. Those listed as “fair” had problems, including badly peeling paint, cracked siding and windows, or damaged roofs, which if left unattended, could result in serious damage. “Deteriorated” structures indicate severe exterior problems and neglect.

Other Notable Features of Building or Site

While many other of the preceding fields list the basic details or a resource’s construction, specifically the style, original date, materials, structural system, roof type, and size, this category allows the surveyor to elaborate on a structure’s other architectural qualities. In the case of this survey it typically included a building’s orientation relative to the street, its floor plan, roof structure, window types, and decorative details. As the state does not expect inventories of this nature to address the interiors of private buildings, no such descriptions were compiled or included. This field also allowed the surveyor to comment on any substantial alterations made to the resource.

Historical or Architectural Importance

Assessing the historical significance of each resource required detailed archival research. The methods applied varied, depending upon the information available for each structure, but did not include a complete chain of title research for each resource. Here structures within an existing Historic District and an individual listing were noted. Additionally we noted structures recommended for landmarking within this report. Finally we noted any other historic or architectural significance and referenced local historic plaques.

V. History of the City of Norwalk

Early History

Norwalk is located in Fairfield County in southwest Connecticut. It is on the coastline of the Long Island Sound, its southern boundary, and has Westport as its eastern boundary. New Canaan and Wilton are its northern boundary and Darien is its western boundary. Having typical New England topography, this city has a main glacial stream running north south as the Norwalk River with mudflats and salt marshes at the estuary where it merges with the Long Island Sound. Islands known as the Norwalk Islands act as barrier to the Harbor. The River itself is navigable upstream to three miles and is set in a valley with fertile soil and rock surrounding.²

Native Americans in the Norwalk area at the time of contact with European settlers were coastal Munsees or People of the Shell who were part of the Wappinger Confederacy. The largest group of Native Americans in the area was in a village known as Naramake after the local sachem. This is said to be the name from which Norwalk was derived.³

The first European landholders in the area were Daniel Patrick to the west of the Norwalk River and Roger Ludlow to the east of the Norwalk River. Patrick purchased his property from the Native Americans in 1640 and Ludlow acquired his sections of the area in 1640 and 1641. The people who were to be the town's founders were latecomers from England to the Massachusetts colony and in search of fertile land. Continuing their search in Connecticut and united by their religion, many came from Hartford to the Norwalk area when given an opportunity by Ludlow in 1650. They purchased land between the Saugatuck and Norwalk Rivers and their agreement set the beginnings of a community and was sanctioned by colonial officials. Patrick's land to the west was later obtained by the settlers shortly thereafter. By 1654 Ludlow returned to England and sold the remainder of his 'Plantation of Norwalke' to the settlers.⁴

Home-lots were established and are seen in Edwin Hall's 1847 map east of the Norwalk River and bordering the survey area to the south.⁵ They were built on either side of Town Street, later known as East Avenue. From the middle of the 17th century well into the 18th, Norwalk's 36,000 acres would continue to be parceled out to new and old inhabitants, albeit slowly as the town had a parsimonious approach to land dividends.⁶

² Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk, Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 9.

³ Ibid, 11.

⁴ Ibid, 15; Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, An Historical Discourse in Commemoration of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the Settlement of Norwalk, CT in 1651, (New York: S.W. Benedict, 1851): 6-20.

⁵ Edwin Hall, 1847 Map of Norwalk.

⁶ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk, Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 21; Edwin Hall, ed., The Ancient Historical Records of Norwalk, Connecticut, (Norwalk, 1847): 46.

Planting Fields were to the southeast of the home lots and early crops included corn, rye, oats and barley with peas, squash, turnips, and pumpkins grown in the home-lot gardens. When additional lands were cleared flax and hemp were grown. Turned into cloth and rope, originally this crop was for local consumption. By the eighteenth century however it became a valuable export for Norwalk to Europe and the West Indies.⁷

During the 18th century Norwalk became a hub of trade for other agriculture products. This would expand from an exchange of goods between Norwalk merchants and farmers from neighboring areas to the importation of goods to the Harbor from areas as far away as Charleston and the West Indies. Sea-related enterprises were a large part of the Norwalk economy during this time although its harbor remained secondary to the larger and more physically accommodating New Haven. Artisans settled and prospered in Norwalk such as silversmiths, cabinetmakers and hatters.⁸

The Revolutionary War

Norwalk's prosperity during the first half of the 18th century was enhanced by England's military conflicts of the time. However, the Revolutionary War would take a large toll on the Town. The Connecticut General Assembly supported the Continental Congress and in October of 1776 freed its inhabitants of allegiance to the Crown. Norwalk was aligned to the state and sent troops as part of its obligation to the Continental Army. Norwalk was one of the State's four authorized ports where privateer captured enemy ships could enter, and be held and processed.⁹

Many Norwalkers suffered financially during the war as trade was thwarted. However some residents prospered manufacturing provisions for the War. With British controlled Long Island just eight miles across the Sound at Huntington Bay, Norwalk residents were anxious and the Town often suffered night raids by the enemy. Although Troops and artillery were provided to Norwalk in 1778 after the British raids of nearby Danbury and Ridgefield, this anxiety would soon be justified.¹⁰

The most dramatic effect of the war on the Town occurred on July 11, 1779. General Tryon with 2,600 British troops received orders from Sir Henry Clinton to destroy supplies, privateers and shipping of Connecticut Towns. The British first landed in New Haven and met with little resistance. Fairfield was invaded on July 8th and 9th and the inhabitants fought back. In retaliation General Tryon ordered the burning of homes and public buildings. Word reached Norwalk of Fairfield's burning and inhabitants fled with whatever possessions they could manage to the surrounding hills and towns. On the night of July 10 Tryon's troops landed in Calf Pasture in Norwalk and began their attack

⁷ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk, Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 17.

⁸ Ibid: 37.

⁹ Ibid: 53.

¹⁰ Ibid: 57-58; Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, An Historical Discourse in Commemoration of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the Settlement of Norwalk, CT in 1651, (New York: S.W. Benedict, 1851): 42.

up East Avenue at first light. Marching up the Norwalk River, they soon occupied Grumman's Hill, the surrounding area and the Norwalk Bridge at the top of the Harbor.¹¹

The American militia was largely outnumbered as it comprised eight to nine hundred troops under General Oliver Wolcott who joined General Samuel Parsons' local militia of 150 troops. Although they fought valiantly, the Patriots were beaten back with arrival of the British Second Division at the bridge. The Second Division set fire to the Norwalk homes and barns as it marched up the west side of the River to the Bridge. Tryon retreated down the eastern side of the river continuing the conflagration to structures on that side. He also destroyed magazines, five vessels and two under construction as well as confiscating all whaleboats found. Six houses were spared, which was attributed to their owners' allegiance to the Crown.¹² The total destruction was eighty homes, both churches (Congregational and Episcopal), eighty seven barns, seventeen shops and four mills.¹³ Some immediate relief was administered by the State to Norwalkers in the form of tax abatements and later the State reimbursed 300 residents for their losses. The State also granted lands in the State's Western Reserve in the Ohio Territory as part of its restitution to fire sufferers. These lands became known as the Fire Lands. However, during the rest of the War, the Town in its dilapidated state was subject to foraging raids which inhibited reconstruction until after the War.¹⁴

1789-1861

Following the Revolutionary War, Norwalk slowly began to rebuild. The Town was strained financially at this time and attention to wharves and shops took precedence over school houses. The Episcopal Church, St. Paul's, was rebuilt on its original foundations on East Avenue in 1786 and the new Congregational Church was built in 1788. New roads were built and the town grew due to maritime related commercial growth including ship building in the beginning of the 19th century. Additionally the Town shipped growing quantities of locally manufactured goods and produce.¹⁵

The most notable commercial enterprise during this time in Norwalk was E. Lockwood and Sons. Eliphalet and his sons, William and Buckingham St. John, started their business as a store. The family business would grow to include landholdings, ships, a sawmill and rolling and slitting mills. The Lockwoods owned partially or fully twelve

¹¹ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk, Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 59-61; . Nathaniel Bouton, An Historical Discourse in Commemoration of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the Settlement of Norwalk, CT in 1651, (New York: S.W. Benedict, 1851): 46; John Warner Barber, Connecticut Historical Collections, (New Haven: 1838): 391-392.

¹² Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk, Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 62.

¹³ Nathaniel Bouton, An Historical Discourse in Commemoration of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the Settlement of Norwalk, CT in 1651, (New York: S.W. Benedict, 1851): 48; John Warner Barber, Connecticut Historical Collections, (New Haven: 1838): 391.

¹⁴ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk, Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 65-66.

¹⁵ Ibid: 67-68, 71 & 74.

sloops and two schooners. The Lockwood store was near the west end of the Norwalk bridge and the company's ships launched from the Harbor to ports including New York City, Albany, Troy, Boston, Charleston, and the West Indies. The Lockwood money would be invested in banks including Fairfield County Bank, Stamford Bank and Connecticut Bank as well as stocks helping to fund growing enterprises around the burgeoning Nation.¹⁶

Although not on the financial scale of success as the Lockwoods, Norwalk had other successful entrepreneurial enterprises such as Robert Cameron's Tannery and Algernon E. Beard's shoe distribution business. Beard invested locally in other Norwalk enterprises. A very important industry to Norwalk was pottery. One such enterprise was owned by Asa E. Smith. Originally in business with his cousin, that partnership was broken and Smith manufactured pottery with his sons. With a warehouse at Peck Slip in New York City, this company grew to be the largest in the area. It manufactured yellow ware, Rockingham ware, stoneware and brown earthenware. Later called Norwalk Pottery, it was located at the head of the Harbor at the end of State Street.¹⁷

In spite of these successful enterprises, Norwalk did not experience the industrial boom as other towns did in the first half of the 19th century as it lacked significant water power. The Norwalk River flowed along a gentle terrain and therefore lacked the power of other rivers in New England where mills were proliferating.

The Borough of Norwalk was chartered in 1836 in response to the commercial interests around the Norwalk Bridge and head of the Harbor. This densely populated part of Norwalk was a transportation and commercial nexus as it was where the Harbor met Boston Post Road. The Borough encompassed the residential and commercial area on both sides of the River. Although still part of the town of Norwalk, the Borough had its own by-laws and a warden and six burgesses.¹⁸ . An account from 1838 described Norwalk Borough as "a village of upwards of 100 houses, 26 mercantile stores, 2 churches, 1 Congregational and 1 Episcopal, 1 bank (the Fairfield County bank,) and 1 extensive pottery...A boat leaves Norwalk bridge every other day for New York."¹⁹

Norwalk's other Village was Old Well, later South Norwalk, which was one and a half miles south of the center of Norwalk Borough and on the west side of the river Old Well had two churches (Congregational and Methodist), six to seven hat factories, three potteries, a carriage maker, a cotton factory and carpet manufacturer. Described by the previously mentioned account as "the principal landing place for steamboats, for Norwalk and the vicinity, there being a daily line from and to New York."²⁰

In the first half of the nineteenth century, Norwalk like the rest of the country, began to build its homes following the latest style in architecture. Gothic Revival, Italianate and

¹⁶ Ibid: 76-79.

¹⁷ Ibid: 81; F.W. Beers, "Plan of Norwalk, Fairfield Co. Conn," (1867).

¹⁸ Ibid: 114-115.

¹⁹ John Warner Barber, Connecticut Historical Collections, (New Haven): 1838: 390.

²⁰ Ibid: 392.

Greek Revival style houses adorned the Norwalk landscape and some can still be seen today including in the survey area. Grand houses in the Italianate and Greek Revival styles were built near and around the Norwalk Green accommodating Norwalk's small group of wealthy residents. The 1850 census described most of Norwalk's 774 houses as "rows of neat white cottages."²¹

Between 1840 and 1860 Norwalk experienced a significant population growth to about 4,600. By 1860, Norwalk boasted about 7,600 citizens. This was largely due to the influx of immigrants, especially Irish. The most common occupations of Norwalk residents during this time were hatter, boatman, shoemaker, farmer and laborer.²²

Despite of the lack of significant water power, Norwalk was ranked fifth in Connecticut in value of manufactured goods in 1839. Its most notable industry was hat making which provided employment for some 2,000 people at its peak.²³ Small hat making enterprises had been part of Norwalk's economy since the 18th century. Improvements in the manufacturing process in the first half of the nineteenth century coupled with Norwalk's port and proximity to New York City made the Town an ideal place for this industry.

One such enterprise was started in 1858 by James K. Knapp. Partnering with hatter Andrew J. Crofut, they formed Crofut & Knapp or C&K in South Norwalk. This company prospered by keeping up with the latest trends as well as being at the forefront of the latest techniques. C&K was the first hat company to make the derby hat in 1860. It would continue in Norwalk into the twentieth century.²⁴ Another successful industry in Norwalk at the mid-nineteenth century was lock making. In 1856 the Norwalk Lock Company was started by three Norwalk residents, Algernon Beard, Ebenezer Hill and Henry H. Elwell.

The Morrison & Hoyt Shirt Company was on the east side of West Avenue at the corner of Merwin Street.²⁵ Employing young women who lived in boarding houses on West Avenue, this company had about 300 workers. By 1870, people were coming to work at the shirt factory from as far away as Canada as well as neighboring states. Morrison & Hoyt was not only modern in its operations but also in its personnel practices by paying its employees well and providing for their cultural and educational interests.²⁶

Burgeoning local industries demanded more than the one bank in Norwalk, Fairfield County Bank. The Norwalk Savings Society was started in 1849 and the Bank of

²¹ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk, Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 102.

²² Ibid: 102.

²³ Ibid: 102-104.

²⁴ Ibid: 106; "New Hat Company Formed; Cavanagh-Dobbs, Inc. Merges Crofut & Knapp and Dobbs, Co.," *The New York Times* (April 4, 1928); Directory for the Town of Norwalk 1887-1889, Norwalk, CT: W. Andrew Boyd, 1887.

²⁵ F.W. Beers, "Plan of Norwalk, Fairfield Co. Conn.," (1867).

²⁶ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk, Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 108.

Norwalk in 1857. Shortly thereafter, the Mechanics Saving Society in South Norwalk was opened, later called South Norwalk Savings Bank.

In spite of developing business interests, Norwalk was resistant to being on the proposed New York/New Haven railroad line due to investments in steamboats. However, by 1848 this railroad route was complete and operating with the line going through South Norwalk with a wide draw bridge so as to not impede shipping. A short line was built in 1852 between Danbury and Norwalk with a depot on Wall Street. During the Civil War, LeGrand Lockwood took over the line and expanded it. One expansion was between South Norwalk and Wilson Point where Lockwood built a steamboat pier marrying the two forms of transportation.²⁷

The Borough of Norwalk experienced two calamities which would inextricably change the central business district. First was the Flood of 1854 which damaged many local businesses but forced the Burgesses to finally replace the long-complained of wood bridge with a stone one. The other event was the Fire of 1858 which destroyed one fourth of the area. The extensive damage was blamed on lax enforcement of the fire laws for the area. Businesses were forced to comply with the 1853 law banning wood construction within the central area and masonry structures were built. An exception to this was the newly built Methodist Church where Wall Street meets West Avenue; it was built in the Romanesque Revival of wood construction. Additionally Wall Street was widened to fifty feet.²⁸

The Civil War

Slavery was still legal in Connecticut after 1800 until a state law passed in 1848 which made it illegal. In 1810, there were only 12 slaves in Norwalk and these belonged to the prominent Norwalk families of Hoyt, Gregory, Lockwood, Nash, St. John, and Raymond. Conversely, there were many free blacks that were employed as servants and laborers. The Lockwoods employed a man named Enoch Negro for thirteen dollars a month. By 1830, Norwalk's free black population reached 132 and by mid-century, climbed to 150. Employment consisted of hatters, barbers, servants in private homes, maids in hotels, waitresses and oyster shuckers²⁹.

As their community grew, black residents sought places to worship and began holding church services in hotels and houses while hoping for a church of their own. However, too poor to build a church, the African Methodist Congregational was able to use the Town House for services at no charge. In 1886, the First Congregation Church donated its Lecture Room to the congregation, now known as Bethel AME. The Lecture Room was moved from Lewis Street down Mill Hill to a site on Knight Street and became the

²⁷ Ibid: 110-111; Matthew A. Kierstead, Historic Resources Inventory Form: "Metro North Railroad 1910 Electrification Norwalk New Haven Railroad Danbury Branch," (June 1998).

²⁸ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk, Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 114-116.

²⁹ Ibid: 120-121.

new church for the congregation.³⁰ Further details on the history of this church are in Chapter VIII of this report.

During this time, immigrants were pouring into the United States and rapid growth during the pre-Civil War decade was entirely attributable to Irish immigration (60 percent increase between 1850 and 1860), bringing in much needed labor for farms, factories, and railroad construction. As previously mentioned, many of the Irish immigrants settled in Norwalk and Irish women were employed as live-in servants in many of the wealthier areas on Park St, East Avenue, East Wall and Lewis St.³¹ Initially, there was anti-Irish sentiment and a small Catholic Church on Chapel Street (no longer extant) became the focus of violent, anti-Catholic leanings. Attempts were made to burn the church down and the gilded cross on top of the church was sawn off.³² The Irish were treated as second-class citizens until the onset of the Civil War when they would become necessary in the fight against the South.

In 1863, LeGrand Lockwood, a New York financier, and a director of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and of several railroad companies, purchased 30 acres to build his new country estate at what is now 295 West Avenue. The architect commissioned for the grand residence built in the French Renaissance Chateau style was Detlef Lienau, a Danish-born, French-trained architect. Artists and artisans from Europe and stone masons and wood workers from Italy came to work on the mansion and grounds.³³ The estate was the family's summer residence and it was a good source of employment for area residents, employing 60 full-time gardeners just for the grounds.³⁴

Civil War was soon declared in 1861 and the government began asking Norwalk for volunteer soldiers who were randomly assigned to one of Connecticut's initial nine regiments. Company H, Eighth Regiment was almost entirely a Norwalk Company. The Ninth was the Irish Regiment which consisted of eleven companies. Even though they had endured poor treatment, prejudice and discrimination in those days, as a whole, the Irish opposed the war and many in Norwalk were staunch Unionists.³⁵

As the war continued, more support was needed and a thirteenth regiment was formed. The pride of Norwalk was Company F in the Thirteenth Regiment. Known as the

³⁰ Ibid: 120.

³¹ Jan Cunningham, "Norwalk Green Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, (December 14, 1987).

³² Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 121.

³³ Marilyn Larew, "Lockwood-Mathews Mansion," National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, (December 30, 1970).

³⁴ W. Phillips Barlow, Andrews/Barlow Joint Venture, Historic Municipal Parks Survey Form: Lockwood-Mathews Mansion, Hartford, CT.

³⁵ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 123.

Lockwood Guards, volunteers came forth in three days to create the Company after LeGrand Lockwood offered \$1,000 bounty to its volunteers. Then, after years of fighting, the Union triumphed and Norwalk celebrated until the death of President Lincoln was heard and the following scene took place in Norwalk:

*All through the day muffled church bells tolled. A procession marched with slow tread down West Avenue, across Washington Street bridge, and up East Avenue to the (Norwalk) Green. The Phoenix Fire Engine, displaying a large black-bordered picture of President Lincoln, moved slowly along the route with the hook-and-ladder which carried a banner with the words: "We mourn our loss."*³⁶

The Norwalk Green is an elongated triangular grass area with two major streets passing on either side of the Green: Park Street on the west and East Avenue on the East. Prior to 1851, the Green was common land; however, later in the 19th century it was planted and was fenced to keep grazing animals out. The Green was used to mark many historic occasions, such as the one mentioned above, throughout history in the City of Norwalk. At the end of the Civil War, two churches faced the Green: St. Paul's third Episcopal Church on this site and the original Congregational Church. Both are no longer extant and have been rebuilt on the same sites that these structures once occupied.³⁷

1865-1913

Industry

Norwalk's population doubled in the two decades following the Civil War. This created overcrowding in the older sections of the city and put pressure on the government to provide more city services such as schools, electricity, a water system, trash disposal, etc. In 1873, a depression swept the country, leaving wealthy businessmen such as LeGrand Lockwood, in dire straits. Lockwood was forced to mortgage his estate to pay his business debts. He died soon thereafter and his family was forced to vacate the estate. In 1876, Charles D. Mathews, a retired businessman, purchased the house for \$90,000, a paltry sum. Due to his elaborate lifestyle, Mathews employed more workers to maintain his estate than a moderate size company would need. Seven full-time servants, a cook, a butler, a nurse, two seamstresses, a chambermaid and a coachman were some of the employees who cared for the estate.³⁸

Oystering continued to be a mainstay for the local economy during the depression. Technological improvements such as the dredge and the Oyster Sloop increased the

³⁶ Ibid: 129.

³⁷ Jan Cunningham, "Norwalk Green Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, (December 14, 1987).

³⁸ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, 137.

ability to both capture and hold a large daily catch. Peak years for the Oyster Industry were between 1885 and 1910.³⁹ A directory of Norwalk for 1889-1890 shows a David J. Bennett and Seth D. Avery, both oysterman residing on and around Belden Avenue.⁴⁰ A later directory from 1910 shows a James W. Allen, oyster opener, and Daniel Allgood, oysterman, both residing on Water (now Commerce) Street.⁴¹ Sloops, sharpies and steamboats navigated the river to the oyster houses fronting Water Street. The floating oyster houses were made from old canal boats and scowls. Here, the oysters were culled and cleaned and packed in large shipments to New York City.⁴² This was the era of oyster bars, oyster saloons and restaurants featuring chilled oysters on the half shell and Norwalk had its share. On the east side of Main Street between Hoyt and Wall Streets, six saloons operated in very close proximity in 1896.⁴³

Along with oystering, hatting was central to the City's economy. Companies such as Crofut and Knapp, the Volk Hat Company on Water Street, and the Norwalk Straw Hat Company (owned by Hurlbutt & Company) on Butler Street employed many residents in the area.⁴⁴ Between 1889 and 1910, hatters could be found living on many streets in the survey area: Maple Avenue, Chapel Street, West Avenue, Belden Avenue, Main Street, Hoyt Street, Merwin Street, Orchard Street, Mott Avenue, Elm Street, Isaacs Place, and Wall Street.⁴⁵ The Norwalk Shirt Factory (previously the Morrison and Hoyt Shirt Company)⁴⁶ was another large factory producing clothing in Norwalk. It was located on Merwin Street and is not extant. One mill building from Norwalk Straw Hat Company remains intact located at 3 Quincy Street.

Cigar making was a small industry that burgeoned in Norwalk during this era. This was occurring in many towns in Connecticut when it was discovered that Connecticut tobacco blended well with Cuban leaf. Most companies were small with just a few employees.⁴⁷ Another small industry in the City was carriage making. Norwalk had many skilled craftsmen in the trades of woodworking, carpentry, and metalwork. There were several carriage and wagon shops in the area including the J. Merritt Carriage

³⁹ Ibid: 139.

⁴⁰ Norwalk Town Directory for 1889-1890, (Meriden, CT: Wilbur F. Hanks, 1890): 31 & 39.

⁴¹ The Directory for the Town of Norwalk, 1910, (New Haven, CT: The Price & Lee Co., 1910): 48.

⁴² Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 140.

⁴³ Sanborn Map of Norwalk, (September 1896): Plate 4.

⁴⁴ Sanborn Map of Norwalk, (January 1891): Plate 8.

⁴⁵ Norwalk Town Directory for 1889-1890, (Meriden, CT: Wilbur F. Hanks, 1890): 31 & 39; The Directory for the Town of Norwalk, 1910, (New Haven, CT: The Price & Lee Co., 1910).

⁴⁶ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 108.

⁴⁷ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 141.

Shop on Water Street, the St. Ruby Wagon Shop on Cross Street,⁴⁸ and the Olmstead Carriage Shop off Cross Street.⁴⁹ The carriages were bought by the wealthy for in-town travel and were of artisan quality. Unfortunately, these businesses suffered during the depression of 1890 and became obsolete with the invention of the motorcar.⁵⁰

Schools

The public school system was fragmented between Norwalk and South Norwalk and there was no town-wide high school until 1908. Many parents chose to send their children to private schools. Among these private schools were St. Mary's Parochial School on Leonard Street which opened in 1882⁵¹ and Miss Cornelia Baird's Institute, an exclusive finishing school (circa 1882) on Orchard Street.⁵² Neither structure is extant, although St. Mary's Catholic Church still stands on West Avenue. Another institute for boys was the Selleck School on East Avenue (just east of the survey area), founded by the Reverend Charles Selleck in 1855. Local children who attended day school were able to associate with boarding students who were offspring of America's new industrial leaders and New York City's Four Hundred.⁵³

Norwalk was at the forefront of creating libraries for its City. In the late 19th century, the library movement was part of the new educational philosophy that stressed assisting adults with furthering their education. A committee consisting of Congressman Hill, Dr. James Gregory and Miss Datha Stone Pinneo was formed to establish a library on Wall Street. At the turn of the century, the City received funding from Andrew Carnegie which resulted in the construction of two more libraries, one on Belden Avenue. Miss Stone-Pinneo went on to become the first librarian for this library and served in that capacity for twenty-eight years. Ahead of her time, Miss Stone-Pinneo opened the library shelves to the public when most libraries would not allow this practice for fear of theft.⁵⁴ Originally constructed in the Tudor Revival style and clad with red brick, the Belden building is extant and continues to function as a library, albeit with modern updates and additions.

In 1901, a Town Hall and Police Station took up residence on Wall Street. A former opera house at 33-39 Wall Street was refurbished for city offices and law offices next to

⁴⁸ Sanborn Map of Norwalk, (January, 1891): Plates 2 and 6.

⁴⁹ Sanborn Map of Norwalk, (September, 1896): Plate 2.

⁵⁰ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 142.

⁵¹ Ibid: 157.

⁵² Directory of the Town of Norwalk for 1891, (Meriden, CT: Wilbur F. Hanks, 1891): 254.

⁵³ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 157-158.

⁵⁴ Ibid: 166, 168.

the James Block were turned into a Police Station.⁵⁵ In 1913 South Norwalk and the Borough of Norwalk united as the City of Norwalk as a measure to attract more business interests.⁵⁶

As in most cities and towns, the wealthier residents lived on the main thoroughfares while the smaller houses were built on the side streets. The Irish enclave on Chapel spread out and many of the old Federal houses between West Avenue and the river were occupied by Irish families. East and West Avenues were favored by the wealthy. Before becoming a commercial corridor, West Avenue was lined with homes of the city's social and business leaders.⁵⁷

World War I

As the United States entered World War I in 1917, the people of Norwalk did their best to support the war effort. Massive bond rallies were held where the women's chorus from the M. N. Mayehoff Company, a manufacturer of sports clothes and shirts on Merwin Street,⁵⁸ could be heard singing the National Anthem and "Over There." Bond-buying parades were held and businesses would sometimes close early to let their employees participate. The following scene took place in Norwalk during one of these parades:

*The sight of Mayehoff's female employees, strikingly attired in white dresses and red liberty caps, stepping smartly along the parade route and waiving patriotic banners and American flags helped to sell over a million dollars worth of bonds in one drive alone. Mr. Mordecai Mayehoff even gave employees a raise accompanied by the directive that they use the money to buy Liberty Bonds.*⁵⁹

Many of Mayehoff's female employees lived in a large boarding house called the Long House on West Avenue. Mayehoff had placed a fairly large sign in front of the Long House advertising employment opportunities at his company.⁶⁰ This building is no longer extant.

In addition to supporting the war effort, local manufacturers prospered greatly from war contracts at the time. For example, Norwalk Lock, located on Water Street, received war contracts for small fittings used in marine construction and had manufactured all of

⁵⁵ James Sexton, Ph.D., "Wall Street Historic District, Norwalk," National Register of Historic Places nomination, (September 23, 2009): Section 8, p. 23.

⁵⁶ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 172.

⁵⁷ Ibid: 158-159.

⁵⁸ Sanborn Map of Norwalk. (1922): Plate 205.

⁵⁹ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 177.

⁶⁰ Ibid: 177-178.

the hinges, locks and door pulls installed on the battleship *North Dakota*. The Arnold Foundry, located on Hoyt Street, cast pancake griddles for field mess kitchens. The unprecedented demand for a work force to fulfill these contracts drove salaries upward which culminated in a period of great prosperity for the city.⁶¹

World War I ended and business continued in Norwalk. Even though Norwalk Harbor had declined in significance and usage, the St. George Paper Company still utilized three-masted schooners to carry wood pulp from Nova Scotia to the company's processing plant on Smith Street (no longer extant). Norwalk was now in the automobile age, and, although the change was not immediate, streets such as West Avenue and Main Street began to change because of the amount of traffic coming through. Historic structures such as the historic Belden house at the north end of West Avenue were demolished to make way for a Standard Oil Station. This pre-Revolutionary structure had been used as a way station by General Garth's men during the burning of the town. Further down on West Avenue, the first commercial block was being built by Robert Frost, Jr. Frost constructed three connected two-story structures with facades of tan seam-faced granite cut from the same quarries as the buildings on the Yale Campus. The Frost Building, designed in the Art Deco style and still in existence today, was another move toward the commercialization of West Avenue.⁶²

In 1928, civic minded citizens were able to raise enough funds from the community to build the YMCA on West Avenue.⁶³ Although the original building, designed in the Colonial Revival style, is extant, a large modern addition has been attached to the north façade.

During the Great Depression, Norwalk fared better than many cities and towns throughout the nation due to its industry. The owners of local businesses and small manufacturers lived in the community and had a sense of responsibility and loyalty to their employees. Construction continued at a slow pace with a few significant projects. The Christian Science building constructed on West Avenue in 1935 in the Classical Revival style was touted as being "one of the most important building enterprises undertaken in Norwalk for several years" as it provided jobs for a wide range of artisans.⁶⁴ Another construction project during this time period was the Post Office on Belden Avenue. Built of red brick in the Classical Revival style, this structure contains a

⁶¹ Ibid: 177.

⁶² Ibid: 184-186.

⁶³ Ibid: 188.

⁶⁴ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 192.

WPA oil-on-canvas mural entitled “Building Norwalk” by the artist Arnold Branch in 1938.⁶⁵

A wonderful achievement of the City during the Great Depression was the acquisition of the Lockwood-Mathews estate. After Mathews last remaining daughter passed away in 1938, the City leased the property from the heirs with an option to buy. The estate was then purchased two years later. Many people had never been on the grounds of the mansion since the Mathews did not mix with the local people. A Norwalk newspaper, the *Sentinel*, captured the local sentiment: “On August 1, at noon, one may boldly walk into the grounds and satisfy all his curiosities.” Hundreds of Norwalkers showed up for the public opening. Free events such as WPA concerts were held in the mansion, drawing residents in on a regular basis.⁶⁶ The mansion and outbuildings were also used by the City as offices and storage space for records and equipment.⁶⁷

World War II

When WWII broke out, Norwalk once again benefited from generous war contracts. For example, Norwalk Lock became a subsidiary of Segal Lock and Hardware Company. Its business had expanded to the point where it had to build an addition to provide the space needed to accommodate a quarter million dollar military contract for forgings. Norwalk was declared a defense area by the OPM in October of 1941. At that point, of the 11,000 factory workers in Norwalk, 2,000 were devoted to defense production.⁶⁸

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Norwalk’s Asian community was affected. Two Japanese owned restaurants, The Owl and The M and J establishments, were closed down by the city. Most of the restaurant workers lived on Merwin and Orchard Streets at the time and over sixty Japanese residents from this area were brought into Police Headquarters for fingerprinting. Although they were carefully watched and confined to their homes, none of the Japanese residents were interred. After a few weeks had passed, the restaurants reopened under American supervision.⁶⁹

Scrap metal was important for the war effort and everything that could be utilized in the city was taken. The old trolley tracks that ran long Wall Street and West Avenue⁷⁰ were ripped up and yielded one thousand tons of high grade steel. The iron fence at the Lockwood-Mathews estate was considered but decided against. Scrap metal was taken

⁶⁵ Ralph Bloom, “The City of Norwalk, Historic Resources Inventory,” (1976).

⁶⁶ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, *Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town*, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979):195-196.

⁶⁷ Marilyn Larew, “Lockwood-Mathews Mansion,” National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, (December 30, 1970): Section 8, page 2.

⁶⁸ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, *Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town*, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 199.

⁶⁹ Ibid: 200.

⁷⁰ F.W. Beers, “Plan of Norwalk, Fairfield Co. Conn.,” (1867).

in the form of iron pipes from the greenhouses on the estate instead. The estate also became useful as a place to plant Victory Gardens. Several dozen children planted vegetable gardens in Mathews Park during the war to subsidize the rationing.⁷¹

In 1943, a new Mayor, Robert B. Oliver, was elected. Many people had come to Norwalk during the war to work in the factories and housing was an issue. However, never before Oliver's administration had anyone looked at the plight of the Black community in Norwalk. Conditions were so deplorable that several families living in tenements were sharing an outdoor privy. After a fire destroyed a dilapidated four-family house near the railroad tracks, leaders from the black community and their advocates petitioned for condemnation of substandard structures in the area. They were also able to raise funds for the creation of the Carver Apartments, low income housing, at 43 Harbor Avenue (extant).⁷²

1950s-60s

Norwalk was struck by a devastating flood that literally changed the City in October of 1955. It struck so quickly that the Cross Street bridge collapsed and the Wall Street bridge was clogged with debris just as the City's emergency plan was being activated. The greatest damage was done in the heart of Norwalk in the Wall and Main Street sector which was declared a disaster area.⁷³

Almost every business in the Norwalk River Valley lost machinery and equipment damaged by mud and silt. Forty houses were lost completely and hundreds were damaged. Total losses of public property in Norwalk were estimated at over \$4.5 million.⁷⁴

The flood reshaped the appearance of the Wall and Main Street sector by destroying a number of buildings and allowing for a movement toward rebuilding in modern styles⁷⁵ on the north side of the sector. Connecticut's Governor Ribicoff noted that the flood had presented an opportunity to rebuild the City under the new Urban Renewal Program. The City's Redevelopment Agency decided upon the following Urban Renewal Plan:

What the Redevelopment Agency decided to do in effect was to complete what the flood had started. It acquired for renewal twenty-six acres on the north side of Wall and Main Streets as far west as Belden Avenue, an area heavily

⁷¹ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 201-202.

⁷² Ibid: 207.

⁷³ "Flood Disaster Pictorial." Norwalk, CT: MARK Publications, Inc., 2005.

⁷⁴ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 219.

⁷⁵ James Sexton, Ph.D., "Wall Street Historic District, Norwalk," National Register of Historic Places nomination, (September 23, 2009): Section 8, page 19.

*damaged by flood waters... The Redevelopment Plan involved widening the intersection of Wall and Main streets to improve the flow of traffic, and clearance of surrounding land to allow for open space as well as a modern shopping area with adequate parking.*⁷⁶

Unfortunately, the plan did not receive federal government approval until July, 1959 and work did not begin until the 1960s. In the interim, Norwalk was left in ruins.⁷⁷ At the same time, the Connecticut State Turnpike (Interstate 95) was being built right in between South Norwalk and Norwalk. This helped to draw local consumers away from the area to new, car-oriented shopping centers in the region.⁷⁸

The 1960s began with a City Plan to tear down the Lockwood-Mathews mansion and build a modern city hall on the grounds. Widespread public outcry ensued and the issue was settled in a landmark case, *Baker, et al. vs City of Norwalk* wherein the taxpayers defeated the municipality and saved the estate.⁷⁹ "In 1965, the Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk took a \$1.00-per-year lease on the mansion. The agreement was for 10 years, with a renewal up to 30 years. The Junior League agreed to restore the mansion and open it as a museum. The Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum of Norwalk, Inc. was formed to carry out this purpose and the house opened to visitors in June 1966."⁸⁰ The decade ended with citizens united to save a beloved landmark.

⁷⁶ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 221.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ James Sexton, Ph.D., "Wall Street Historic District, Norwalk," National Register of Historic Places nomination, (September 23, 2009): Section 8, page 19.

⁷⁹ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 122.

⁸⁰ Marilyn Larew, "Lockwood-Mathews Mansion," National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, (December 30, 1970): Section 8, Page 2.

VI. Architectural Overview of the Survey Area

The survey area has predominantly three types of buildings: residential, commercial and institutional. Within these types, prevalent styles include Greek Revival, Italianate, French Second Empire, Vernacular, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Commercial.

For purposes of the description of the architecture of this area, we have divided the Survey area into three sections: East of the River (including the Norwalk Green), The Commercial core at Wall Street and the area north, and the West Avenue corridor with sub-areas both west and east of West Avenue.

East of the River (including the Norwalk Green)

The eastern border of the survey is East Avenue and only includes structures on the west side of this thoroughfare. Starting from the southern point delineated by Interstate 95, there is a small enclave of modest residential structures between East Avenue and the Norwalk River. These were built between the 1920's and 1950's on small lots. They are predominantly one to one and a half stories in height. The oldest structures of this group are seen on Elton and are in the Bungalow/Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles and built in the 1920's-30's. Hendricks and Yankee Doodle Court have 1940's and 1950's Cape's. One anomaly to this area is at 1 Sherry Street where there is a residential structure built circa 1900 in the Queen Anne style. The rest of Sherry Street has 1940's and 1920's structures.

The structures on the west side of East Avenue are primarily former residential ones which are now used for commercial/professional purposes. Among the structures occupying the south end of East Avenue there is a mix of styles and periods. They are from the turn of the century through the 1930's and the styles include Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Tudor Revival and late Gothic Revival. An exception to this group is the Hendrick's House at 168 East Avenue which was built circa 1838 in the Greek Revival style.

On the north end of East Avenue, just south of the Green, there are predominantly mid-19th century, former residential structures in the Greek Revival, Italianate, and French Second Empire styles. These represent the homes of Norwalk's mid-19th century upper class and are included in the National and State Register of Historic Places in the Norwalk Green Historic District. To the west of the East Avenue corridor the original historic structures along the River were destroyed by the 1955 Flood and they have been replaced by modern structures.

The former grand residences at the north end of East Avenue, just below the Green, are continued along the western side of the Green on Park Street. With the exception of the First Congregational Church these former residences are also in the Greek Revival style and there is one in the Italianate style. These too are included in the Norwalk Green Historic District.

Both churches at the Green, The First Congregational Church and St. Paul's Episcopal have been in Norwalk since the 18th century, although their present structures are from the early 20th century. The First Congregational Church at 10 Park Street was built in 1924 in the Georgian Revival style. It adjoins an earlier structure at the rear which was built in 1850. The 1924 structure replaced its 1848 predecessor which burned in 1917.⁸¹ St. Paul's Church's located at the head of the Green was built between 1928-1930 designed by Percy Fowler in the late Gothic Revival style. Both churches are included in the Norwalk Green District.

On Lewis Street there are several mid-nineteenth century houses all in very good condition. One of particular note is the William K. Lewis House built in 1844 in the Greek Revival house. This structure has nearly all of its original detail intact. The James Newkirk house at 6 Lewis Street and the James M. Smith house at 8 Lewis Street were both built circa 1860 and in the Italianate style. On Smith Street there are two survivors of the 1955 Flood, the former jail and a barn. The jail was built in 1861 and the barn was built sometime in the 19th century. All five structures are part of the Norwalk Green Historic District.

Commercial Core at Wall Street

Much of this area is within the boundaries of the National and State Register of Historic Places, the Wall Street Historic District. This includes mostly masonry, late 19th to early 20th commercial structures seen on the south side of Wall Street. The north side of this thoroughfare has many examples of 1950's and 1960's commercial architecture due to the rebuilding after the 1955 Flood. The northern end of Commerce Street is part of the Historic District and consists of late 19th to early 20th century commercial and multi-family residential structures.

There are three streets which radiate north from Wall Street which are capped by the northern boundary of the survey area, Cross Street and North Avenue. They are Knight Street, High Street and Main Street. On Knight, there are several structures, mostly formerly and presently commercial, which date to the mid to late 19th century. The rest are from the first half of the 20th century. Most are in the commercial style and are in good to fair condition. One commercial structure of note is at 32 Knight Street, which originally housed the Gibson Publishers Company. It was built circa 1930 in the Colonial Revival style. The structures on Knight, north of One Landmark Square, are outside the Wall Street Historic District.

High Street is also outside of the Wall Street Historic District but in contrast to its neighbor Knight Street, there are mostly residential structures. Two such structures of note are 41 High Street (the Edward Keeler Lockwood House), and 43 High Street both exceptional examples of the Italianate style. 24 High Street is also in the Italianate style but has been stripped of the details which are intact at 43 and 41. Other styles on this

⁸¹ Jan Cunningham, "Norwalk Green Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, (December 14, 1987).

street include Classical and Colonial Revival, Queen Anne and there is one example of Greek Revival. Additionally there are some vernacular residential structures. One of the last row house residential buildings left in Norwalk is at 21-25 High Street built circa 1875.

The southern end of Main Street consists of 19th century commercial structures re-built during the 1950's and they are outside the Wall Street Historic District. At the north end of Main Street there are some residential late 19th to turn of the century structures in the Queen Anne style. This pattern of structures continues on the south side of North Avenue between Main Street and High Street. One exception is an earlier residential structure, the Charles L. Lockwood House at 8 North Avenue which was built circa 1856 in the Greek Revival style.

There are many structures on Belden Avenue and the immediate surrounding area built within the last twenty years. However there are a few exceptions which should be mentioned. The Charles F. Sherwood House (1863) and the Margaret and Amelia Belden House (1867) are intact but have been joined by a modern center addition. The Norwalk Post Office was built circa 1935 in the Classical Revival style and contains a WPA mural by the artist Arnold Blanch. The Norwalk Library's original structure at 1 Belden Avenue was built in the Tudor Revival style in 1903 and designed by W. and G. Audsley.

Isaac Street and Mott Street are also outside the Wall Street Historic District. Isaac Street has several formerly residential structures in the Queen Anne style. Mott Street has two mid-19th structures, numbers 12 and 14. 12 Mott Street is an excellent example of the French Second Empire built circa 1865. Number 14 is an eclectic Gothic Revival residence built circa 1850.

West Avenue Corridor

The crowning jewel of West Avenue is the Norwalk United Methodist Church and it is in the Wall Street Historic District. Built circa 1860 of wood construction, it was the exception to the masonry construction required of its neighbors following the 1858 Fire. It was built in the Romanesque Revival style, according the Wall Street Historic District nomination. The next structure of note on West Avenue is St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and its parish house representing the oldest catholic parish in Norwalk. The massive stone church was built in 1870 in the Gothic Revival style.

West Avenue used to be the site of residences as seen in the historic maps. Vestiges of this are seen at 599 West Avenue and 394 West Avenue. 599 West Avenue has a former French Second Empire Residence and Carriage house which now accommodate a commercial enterprise; the second floor of the house has been removed. 394 was built in the Stick/Eastlake style circa 1880. Presently there are mostly commercial structures, some of which date to the 1930's. One of note is the Frost Building at 606-614 West Avenue and it was built circa 1930 in the Art Deco style with Tudor Revival influences.. It was the first commercial building on West Avenue leading the transition

of the area from residential to commercial. The First Church of Christ Scientist is at 455 West Avenue is an exception. It was built in 1935 in the Classical Revival style and now accommodates a commercial enterprise.

The Lockwood-Mathews mansion and surrounding park mark the south end of the survey area and West Avenue before Interstate 95. The mansion is on the State and National Historic Registers. However, the other structures which were part of the original estate are not. They include the Gatehouse, the Carriage house and the Gardeners cottage.

West of West Avenue

The residential community west of West Avenue used to be a large one rich in historic fabric from as early as the 1870's into the 1930's. However, this area was bisected and partially destroyed by the intrusion of Route 7, the western boundary of the survey area. What remains is a slim strip running north south of residential structures in a wide variety of styles, periods and conditions. Many have been stripped of their original details.

Berkeley has some of the oldest houses in this area primarily in Italianate and Folk Victorian styles. Number 7 Berkeley Street is the Henry Selleck House. It was built circa 1880 in the Victorian Stick style. Just north of Berkeley are houses which front Mott Street and facing Union Park. They are also from this period built in the Italianate and French Second Empire styles. There is a small church at the east end of Berkeley Street, in the Gothic Revival Style, built in 1892 which has most of its details intact.

There are some houses in this area which bear mention. Fifteen Arch Street was built circa 1880 in the Italianate style and with the exception of some added modern windows retains its brackets, double glazed wood doors with transom lights and some of its two-over-two double hung windows. Six Arch Street built in 1887 also retains much of its details with some modern additions to accommodate its current multi-family use. Five Arch Street was built in 1871 in the French Second Empire style. This structure retains an exceptional amount of original details including decorative window surrounds with scrolls at the bases, cornice with paired brackets at the roof line and slate roof.

East of West Avenue

This area has traditionally been a residential one with a few exceptions of industry including the Norwalk Shirt Factory at West Avenue and Merwin Street and the Norwalk Straw Hat Company between Butler and Orchard. All structures from the Shirt factory are non extant and only one structure remains from the Hat Company, at 3 Quincy Street. This long brick mill building occupies most of the western side of Quincy Street and was built circa 1910.

Much of Orchard Street was built circa 1880 with modest front gable residential structures in the Italianate style with a few Queen Anne's. An exception to this is at 11

Orchard Street which was built circa 1850 in the Gothic Revival style. Unfortunately this structure is abandoned and in a dilapidated state. Another exception is next door at 7 Orchard which was built circa 1865 in the French Second Empire Style and retains many original details. It too is in poor condition.

Merwin Street is more eclectic than Orchard in period and style, as well, it has older building fabric. It too is mostly residential with the exception of the Bethel AME Church. Five structures are in the Greek Revival style with the oldest at 18 Merwin built circa 1820. Other styles include Italianate and Queen Anne. Chapel Street also has some of the older residential structures in this area and a mix of style and periods. There is a circa 1830 Greek Revival structure at 25 Chapel Street which was sympathetically renovated in 1990. Other styles on this street include Italianate, Folk Victorian and Colonial Revival. On the east side of Academy are three eclectic, late 19th century structures.

At the southern base of Harbor Avenue on the east side of the street, there is an unusual example of multi-family housing. Built circa 1900, it is a row of adjoined side gable houses, two and a half stories. The telltale signs of its age are the chimneys and the fieldstone foundation. Harbor Avenue has some older residential structures including in the Greek Revival, French Second Empire and Italianate styles, and they are largely stripped of original detail. The southern end of Commerce Street is industrial. There is a group of industrial buildings at 42 Commerce Street which were built circa 1900 and their stone foundations are still evident.

The Pine Island Cemetery is at 6 Crescent Street southeast of Mathews Park. It was designated as a public non-denominational cemetery on December 16, 1708. It was the largest of the three designated cemeteries during the 18th century originally to accommodate Norwalk residents who were settling on the west side of the River. It is enclosed by a fieldstone wall on its north and west sides. In its three centuries of service to Norwalk it has headstones and other funerary art in a wide variety of styles reflecting specific time periods and distinct religious and ethnic communities within Norwalk. A detailed account of this site, its history and its inventory is documented in the Historic Resources Inventory Form for this site and it is on the State Register of Historic Places.⁸²

⁸² "Pine Island Cemetery, Norwalk, CT." Historic Resources Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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VIII. Resources Related to Women and Minorities

Bethel AME Church

The Bethel AME Church is currently located at 19 Academy Street in Norwalk. Although the church was built in 1959 this organization has a long history in Norwalk. In 1874, Augusta Ann Price, one of the Churches founders, invited a group of African Americans to worship in her home and they formed the "Union Mission Society" as an independent church.⁸³ As the group grew they sought a larger space.⁸⁴

In 1875 they were permitted to use the Old Town House on Mill Hill for their services, when it was available, but free of charge. On May 11, 1886 the Congregational Church permitted the Union Mission Society to use their lecture room on Lewis Street. When the Society was finally able to purchase a parcel of land in that same year, the lecture room was moved to Knight Street.⁸⁵

One notable member and pastor of the Union Mission Society was Deacon D. Taylor. Born in Goldsboro, North Carolina in 1847, he was a slave as a child according to the AME church history based on an oral interview of a parishioner who knew Taylor.⁸⁶ The census of 1900 lists him as a gardener and residing at 4 Hoyt Street.⁸⁷ Taylor was successful in raising money from members and merchants which funded improvements to the Church on Knight Street. One donation came from the Ku Klux Klan for \$100 in 1926 to the Deacon Taylor Fund in an effort to prove amicability toward the Black community.⁸⁸ Deacon Taylor died in 1930.

The Rev. William Lamar assumed the pastorate in 1919 and sought to have the Society join a denominational body. In 1922 he proposed affiliation with the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Norwalk group petitioned the New England Annual Conference in 1923 and they were accepted. Under the Episcopalian structure pastors would be assigned to the Church. Rev. Lamar continued as the Bethel AME pastor in Norwalk.

⁸³ The 1880 Federal Census (Supervisor District 1, Enumerator District 146, page 45) shows Augusta Anne Price as living on Park Street with her husband James Price and their three children. No street number

⁸⁴ Lugenia Ship, "History of Bethel AME Church, Norwalk, CT," (date unknown); Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk, Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979: 120. A photograph of the church being moved is in the Ray & Stewart book, p. 120.

⁸⁵ Lugenia Ship, "History of Bethel AME Church, Norwalk, CT," (date unknown).

⁸⁶ Lugenia Ship, "Deacon John D. Taylor," (October 11, 2009).

⁸⁷ The 1900 Federal Census (Supervisor District 26, Enumerator District 90, Sheet 12). The Norwalk City Directory of 1891 also lists Taylor's address as 4 Hoyt St, however, no map from this period shows a 4 Hoyt Street.

⁸⁸ Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria P. Stewart, Norwalk, Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town, (New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing for the Norwalk Historical Society, Inc., 1979): 183.

In 1949 Reverend J.C. Drake initiated a fund drive for the purchase of a site and construction of a new church building with a contribution of \$1,500. In December of that same year, Reverend Felix W. Bagby was appointed pastor of the Norwalk Bethel AME and he continued Rev. Drake's efforts toward a new church. Property with a house was purchased for the structure on February 20, 1953 on the corner of Merwin and Academy Streets.⁸⁹

Community members and businesses donated monies toward the construction of the new church. Architect Carina Milligan, AIA of New Canaan donated her design services to the Church as well as a steeple in memory of Rev. Bagby. Finally on September 7, 1958 the ground breaking ceremony was held and on May 10th of the following year, the cornerstone was laid. On August 30, 1959 the first service was held in the new church and it was dedicated a month later on September 13th by the Rt. Reverend George W. Barber, Bishop of the First Episcopal District of the AME Church.⁹⁰

Japanese American's during World War II

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Norwalk's Asian community was affected. Two Japanese owned restaurants, The Owl and The M and J establishments, were closed down by the city. Most of the restaurant workers lived on Merwin and Orchard Streets at the time and over sixty Japanese residents from this area were brought into Police Headquarters for fingerprinting. Although they were carefully watched and confined to their homes, none of the Japanese residents were interred. After a few weeks had passed, the restaurants reopened under American supervision.⁹¹

⁸⁹ Lugenia Ship, "History of Bethel AME Church, Norwalk, CT," (date unknown). In an interview with Ms. Ship she explained that this site was not picked because it was in an area of African American residents, rather it was picked for its availability. Most of the members of the church from the time lived in South Norwalk.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid: 200.

IX. Recommendations

A major purpose of an Historic Resource Inventory study is to identify those resources which satisfy the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. As the people of Norwalk have long been committed to the preservation of their history, and the resources related to it, many areas of town have structures, buildings, sites, or districts already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This section identifies those resources, and consists of recommendations as to which properties are likely future candidates, either listed individually, or as historic districts. These recommendations are an informed opinion only and should not be construed as excluding any site from consideration for National Register of Historic Places designation. The sites listed below possess qualities that appear to make them eligible for listing on the National Register, however a separate and specific study must be made to determine confirm this. This process, and final evaluation, is administered by the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, One Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103.

Existing National Historic Landmark

Lockwood-Mathews Mansion, Published 12/30/1970, NR 70000836 NHLS

Existing National Register Districts

Norwalk Green Historic District, Published 12/14/1987, NR 87002122

Wall Street Historic District, Published 9/23/2009, NR 09000342

Existing State Historic Landmark

Pine Island Cemetery

Recommended Individual National Register Listings

While the Pine Island Cemetery is on the State Register of Historic Places, it is suggested for nomination to the National Register as well. It could meet Criterion C for its funerary art. Further investigation should be completed on people interred there for possible significance under Criterion A.

The Pine Island Cemetery was the second of three cemeteries created during the 18th century in Norwalk and largest of the three. The cemetery was designated as a public non-denominational cemetery on December 16, 1708 and was used as a burial ground

for nearly three centuries and contains a variety of gravestone styles associated with specific time periods and distinct religious and ethnic communities within Norwalk.

Recommended National Register Districts

The study area identified by this Historic Resources Inventory contains a fairly intact collection of period architecture set in a suburban and commercial environment that includes some light industry. The surveyed resources demonstrate characteristics emphasizing developmental construction of commercial and light industrial structures as well as upper and middle class housing and lower-class worker housing, built during the early nineteenth to mid-twentieth century. A number of the resources identified by this survey include some well-preserved examples directly reflecting these developmental patterns.

One recommendation is the expansion of the Wall Street Historic District and its period of significance. The period of significance as stated in the National Register nomination is 1854-1955. The effects of the aftermath of the Flood of 1955 including the rebuilding of damaged structures and new construction changed the architectural appearance of the District. The boundary of the District within this new definition would move north along Main Street to include such buildings as those at 10 Main Street to 58 Main Street. Further, the new boundary would include new construction immediately after the flood such as 1 Main Street. Finally, structures already within the District would need to be re-evaluated for Contributing status.

Another potential National Register District to be considered is the area east of West Avenue bounded by Butler Street to the south, Chapel Street to the north, and the Norwalk River to the east. This section of the survey area contains a fairly large amount of worker housing which served as residences for the African American, Irish and Asian communities over time. It contained two of Norwalk's largest industries, The Norwalk Hat Company and The Norwalk Shirt Company.

Other Recommendations

Thematic Groups

Three thematic groups have emerged within the survey: Greek Revival style houses, Italianate style houses and Churches.

There are twenty-two Greek Revival style houses in the survey area. One is in excellent condition, nine are in good condition, eleven are fair and two are deteriorated. Due to the rarity and ages of this house-type within the survey area, we recommend that all be reviewed for inclusion in a possible thematic group.

There are 57 Italianate style houses in the survey area. Twenty-six are in good to excellent condition and could possibly be considered as a thematic group.

There are a total of eight churches in the survey area. Two of these, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the First Congregational Church, are already listed as contributing buildings in the Norwalk Green National Register District. The remaining six should be considered as a possible thematic group:

First Church of Christ Scientist, 455 West Avenue, Classical Revival style, 1935.

Bethel AME Church, 33 Merwin Street, Classical Revival style, 1959.

Holy Savior Chapel, 2 Berkeley Street, Late Gothic Revival style, 1892.

Grace Baptist Church, 1 Quincy Street, Vernacular style, 1902.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 669 West Avenue, Gothic Revival style 1870.

X. Street Index

(Notes at right explain two buildings at one address)

11	Academy Street
13	Academy Street
15	Academy Street
4	Arch Street
5	Arch Street
6	Arch Street
14	Arch Street
15	Arch Street
1	Belden Avenue
2	Belden Avenue
3	Belden Avenue
14	Belden Avenue
17	Belden Avenue
25	Belden Avenue
2	Berkeley Street
3	Berkeley Street
4	Berkeley Street
5	Berkeley Street
7	Berkeley Street
9	Berkeley Street
11	Berkeley Street
12	Berkeley Street
13	Berkeley Street
15	Berkeley Street
16	Berkeley Street
17	Berkeley Street
18	Berkeley Street
19	Berkeley Street
20	Berkeley Street
22	Berkeley Street
6	Butler Street
24	Butler Street
25	Butler Street
36	Butler Street
40	Butler Street
42	Butler Street
17	Byington Place
13	Chapel Street

14	Chapel Street	
17	Chapel Street	
19	Chapel Street	
19.5	Chapel Street	
24	Chapel Street	
25	Chapel Street	
26	Chapel Street	
28	Chapel Street	
32	Chapel Street	
39	Chapel Street	
6	Commerce Street	
7	Commerce Street	
10	Commerce Street	
11	Commerce Street	
12	Commerce Street	
13	Commerce Street	
16	Commerce Street	
20	Commerce Street	
25	Commerce Street	
26	Commerce Street	
28	Commerce Street	
32	Commerce Street	
35	Commerce Street	
37	Commerce Street	
38	Commerce Street	
40	Commerce Street	
41	Commerce Street	
42	Commerce Street	
6	Crescent Street	
23	Cross Street	
25	Cross Street	
60	East Avenue	parish house church
60	East Avenue	
92	East Avenue	
94	East Avenue	
96	East Avenue	
98	East Avenue	
100	East Avenue	
102	East Avenue	
104	East Avenue	
108	East Avenue	House

108	East Avenue	Barn
110-112	East Avenue	
116	East Avenue	
130	East Avenue	
134	East Avenue	
150	East Avenue	
152	East Avenue	
154	East Avenue	
156	East Avenue	
158	East Avenue	
160	East Avenue	
162-164	East Avenue	
166	East Avenue	
168	East Avenue	
2	East Wall Street	School House
2	East Wall Street	Town House
3	East Wall Street	Gov. Fitch law office Mallory Homestead
5	East Wall Street	
5	East Wall Street	
4	Elm Street	
5	Elm Street	
6	Elm Street	
6.5	Elm Street	
8	Elm Street	
10	Elm Street	
11	Elm Street	
12	Elm Street	
13	Elm Street	
14	Elm Street	
16	Elm Street	
17	Elm Street	
18	Elm Street	
19	Elm Street	
2	Elton Court	
3	Elton Court	
4	Elton Court	
5	Elton Court	
6	Elton Court	
7	Elton Court	
8	Elton Court	

9	Elton Court
10	Elton Court
11	Elton Court
12	Elton Court
13	Elton Court
14	Elton Court
16	Elton Court
18	Elton Court
2	Harbor Avenue
4	Harbor Avenue
6	Harbor Avenue
18	Harbor Avenue
30	Harbor Avenue
32	Harbor Avenue
34	Harbor Avenue
39	Harbor Avenue
111	Harbor Avenue
127	Harbor Avenue
4	Hendricks Avenue
6	Hendricks Avenue
14	Hendricks Avenue
21.5	High Street
21-25	High Street
24	High Street
28	High Street
32	High Street
34-36	High Street
37	High Street
40	High Street
41	High Street
42	High Street
43	High Street
48	High Street
8	Hoyt Street
10	Hoyt Street
16	Hoyt Street
24	Hoyt Street
28	Hoyt Street
3	Isaacs Street
5	Isaacs Street
7-9	Isaacs Street

11	Isaacs Street
11.5	Isaacs Street
21	Isaacs Street
21	Isaacs Street
2	Knight Street
4	Knight Street
16	Knight Street
20	Knight Street
22	Knight Street
28	Knight Street
29	Knight Street
29	Knight Street
32	Knight Street
39	Knight Street
7	Leonard Street
11	Leonard Street
12	Leonard Street
13	Leonard Street
14	Leonard Street
23	Leonard Street
25	Leonard Street
4	Lewis Street
6	Lewis Street
6.5	Lewis Street
8	Lewis Street
13	Lynes Place
14	Lynes Place
18	Lynes Place
1	Main Street
10-14	Main Street
34	Main Street
44-50	Main Street
52-56	Main Street
58	Main Street
59	Main Street
61	Main Street
69	Main Street
71	Main Street
78	Main Street
80	Main Street
83	Main Street

86	Main Street
88	Main Street
89	Main Street
2	Maple Street
3	Maple Street
4	Maple Street
4	Merwin Street
18	Merwin Street
24	Merwin Street
31	Merwin Street
31	Merwin Street
33	Merwin Street
33.5	Merwin Street
34	Merwin Street
35	Merwin Street
36	Merwin Street
38	Merwin Street
1	Mott Avenue
5	Mott Avenue
6	Mott Street
12	Mott Street
14	Mott Street
6	North Avenue
8	North Avenue
7	Orchard Street
9	Orchard Street
11	Orchard Street
26	Orchard Street
27	Orchard Street
28	Orchard Street
29	Orchard Street
30	Orchard Street
31	Orchard Street
32	Orchard Street
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36	Orchard Street
37	Orchard Street
38	Orchard Street
39	Orchard Street

40	Orchard Street
41	Orchard Street
42	Orchard Street
43	Orchard Street
44	Orchard Street
46	Orchard Street
1	Park Street
2	Park Street
3	Park Street
7	Park Street
10	Park Street
13	Park Street
15	Park Street
1	Quincy Street
3	Quincy Street
4	Quincy Street
6	Quincy Street
1	Sherry Street
2	Sherry Street
3	Sherry Street
4	Sherry Street
5	Sherry Street
7	Sherry Street
8	Smith Street
	Smith Street
	Smith Street
7	Wall Street
10	Wall Street
13	Wall Street
14-26	Wall Street
15	Wall Street
17	Wall Street
19	Wall Street
27-29	Wall Street
31-39	Wall Street
34	Wall Street
40	Wall Street
42	Wall Street
45	Wall Street
47	Wall Street
48	Wall Street

49	Wall Street	
51	Wall Street	
53	Wall Street	
55	Wall Street	
59	Wall Street	
63	Wall Street	
64	Wall Street	
67	Wall Street	
68	Wall Street	
69	Wall Street	
71	Wall Street	
77	Wall Street	
83	Wall Street	
84-102	Wall Street	
97	Wall Street	
104	Wall Street	
104	Wall Street	
110	Wall Street	
295	West Avenue	
299-303	West Avenue	
299-303	West Avenue	
299-303	West Avenue	
370	West Avenue	
394	West Avenue	
455	West Avenue	
507	West Avenue	
507	West Avenue	
509	West Avenue	
515	West Avenue	
523	West Avenue	
536	West Avenue	
542	West Avenue	
599	West Avenue	house
599	West Avenue	carriage house
602	West Avenue	
606-614	West Avenue	
618	West Avenue	
622	West Avenue	
637	West Avenue	
669	West Avenue	church
669	West Avenue	parish house

694	West Avenue
698	West Avenue
718	West Avenue
724	West Avenue
3	Yankee Doodle Court
5	Yankee Doodle Court
7	Yankee Doodle Court
8	Yankee Doodle Court
10	Yankee Doodle Court
12	Yankee Doodle Court
13	Yankee Doodle Court
14	Yankee Doodle Court